THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No, Sir. The major reasons for losses of IDPL are high wage component, low capacity utilisation, obsolescence in technology, high interest burden and fixed cost, non-availability of raw materials and the constraints of working capital etc.

(b) and (c) Besides Vitamins, the company manufacuters a number of vital bulk drugs like Pen. G First crystal, Streptomycin Sulphate, Tetracycline Hcl, Oxtetracycline Hcl, Ampicillin Trihydrate, Amoxycillin, Cephelaxin, Methyl Dopa etc. It is also engaged in the manufacture of a wide variety of formulations, Organic chemicals and Surgical instruments. A number of down stream units in the small scale as well as in the organised sector depend on the bulk drugs produced by IDPL. The role of the company in the pharmaceuticals sector is not insignificant.

(d) and (e) The company has been incurring losses for past several years. Over the years the working capital of the company has eroded severely and consequently the production is affected. As a result of fall in production the incidence of wage bill on the value of production has increased. It is, however, not a fact that the cost of production of IDPL is highest in the country. Package for improvement in the performance of the company would involve stepping up of capacity utilisation, emphasis on higher sales, exports, increase in efficiencies by savings on services & utilities, cost reduction, improvement in the system of collection of outstanding dues and voluntary retirement schemes etc. As per the amended Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, cases of sick industrial units in the public sector are to be referred to the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction for consideration of various options including revival, closure etc.

Decontrolled drugs under pricing regime

1126. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "28 Decontrolled Drugs may be brought under pricing regime" which appeared in the Economic Times of 3rd February, 1991;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and reaction of Government thereto;

(c) what were the inclusion and exclusion criteria of the drugs; and

(d) on what consideration drugs required for the National Health Programme, like Malaria, Tuberculosis, leprosy etc. and a number of essential antibiotics required for mass consumption like Ampicilin Amoxycilin, Cephalexin, Cotrimoxazole, Erythromysin etc. were shifted to decontrolled category ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS and FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) Sir, Government has seen the news item item captioned "28 Decontrolled Drugs may be brought under pricing regime" which appeared in the Economic Times of 3rd February, 1992.

(b) and (c) The entire Drug Policy including DPCO, 1987 is still under review of the Government.

(d) These bulk drugs are still under price control.

Per Capita Consumption of Chemical Fertilisers

1127. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the per capita consumption of chemical fertiliser in the country at present;

(b) whether during the last ten years the per capita consumption has been increased, and

(c) if so, the manner in which Government propose to increase its production in the Eighth Five Year Plan alongwith details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Statistics of per capita consumption of chemical fertilisers in the country is not being maintained. However per hectare consumption of fertilisers for the country for the year 1991-92 is estimated at 72.17 KGs (NPK).

Between 1982-83 to 1991-92 the per hectare consumption in the country is estimated to have gone up from 37.00 KGs (NPK) to 72.17 KGs (NPK).

(c) The steps proposed to increase the production of Chemical Fertilisers in the Eighth Five Year Plan are;

(i) Early completion of spill-over projects started during the 7th Plan.

(ii) Rehabilitation and revamp of old units.

(iii) Expansion of capacities in the existing plants.

(iv) Establishment of new fertiliser plants.

The Eighth Five Year Plan has not however been finalised as yet.

Drug Distribution Outlets

1128. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether former Assistant Development Commissioner (PI) of his Ministry is owning several drug distribution outlets through his relatives;

(b) what are the names of such outlets stating when they were obtained and which drug companies they represent;

(c) what is the tie up between the bureaucrat of his Ministry and the persons owing these outlets by proxy;

(d) whether it is a fact that certain other officers of Drug division of his Ministry are also connected directly or indirectly through their close relations in the ownership of drug distribution houses; and

(e) if so, the details available with his Ministry and what steps have been taken to look into such activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) As per available information, some relatives of the former Assistant Development Commissioner (PI) are owning some business firms dealing in drugs. These business firms have been in existance before this officer had joined the PI division of the Department.

(d) and (e) Under the Rules, no Government servant can engage directly or indirectly in any trade or business except with the previous sanction of the Government. Any violation of the rule is dealt with appropriately.

Indigenisation of Fertilizer Industry

1129. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the degree of indigenisation in the fertilizer industry both in private and public sector at present in terms of foreign exchange component;

(b) the progress made in the last four decades; and

(c) whether things are in back gear since 1990 marginlising indigenous expertise and Institutes like FDPL and FEDO created for self reliance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Staring from the Sindri Fertilizer Plant which was completed in 1952 based on total import of services and equipment in turn-key basis, the progress made in indigenisation has been impressive over the last four decades. For the latest completed public sector fertilizer plant at Vijaipur (1988), and the private sector plant at Jagdishpur (1983), the indigenisation achieved was 66% and 74% respectively.

(c) Indigenous expertise is being availed of to the fullest extent. In addition, there has been an impressive development of catalysts required in the fertilizer plant leading to self sufficiency in practically all types of catalysts.